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2011

PAN

Prison Action News is a newsletter collaboratively published by prisoner support groups worldwide for prisoners to report on their struggles and acts of resistance from behind bars. All submissions must be **RECEIVED** by **Dec 1st or June 1st** and be in compliance with the guidelines below. Please note that we retain the right as editors to alter submissions for grammatical and content-related issues. Prison Action News is one part of the multi-faceted Prison Abolition movement. We believe that the writing in Prison Action News is as important as poetry or political essays, but is often less represented.

History:

The idea for Prison Action News came out of the 2007 Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) Network gathering. We wanted to create a venue for prisoners to share updates of their activities, similar to the updates we wrote in the network newsletter. Recognizing that there is far too much activity occurring in prisons to put in our quarterly newsletter, we decided to create a new newsletter specifically to report on activity within prisons. As people on the outside, we can facilitate this dialog of prison resistance, and help our comrades stay informed about the inspiring actions others are taking. We have recently opened up submissions to prisoners and prison groups worldwide, and to bilingual writing. With your help this newsletter will be a success- if you know of resistance taking place that is not represented here, please send us a submission, and spread the word!

Please send submissions and/or questions to any of the following:

PAN c/o Boston ABC
PO Box 230182
Boston, MA 02123
BostonABC@riseup.net

PAN c/o Central Texas ABC
PO Box 7187
Austin TX 78713
Twitchon@hotmail.com

Central Gerogia ABC
PO Box 610
Roberta, GA 31078

or PRISONACTIONNEWS@RISEUP.NET

Guidelines

1. An update must not exceed 500 words.
2. We will not accept submissions with racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise oppressive language.
3. An update may be a report on resistance activities of individual prisoners or prison groups (this can include, but is not limited to, radical book groups, hunger strike, general strike, letter writing campaigns, etc.).
4. A report should not be a political essay or a report on prison conditions, rather, the response and resistance to these conditions.
5. PAN accepts entries of artwork and illustrations.
6. One submission per group, per prison, per newsletter.
7. We will not report on gang activity.
8. We accept bilingual entries (when one language is English), as well as Spanish entries!
9. Entries may be submitted for publication by prison groups and organizations, or individuals, and may be submitted for publication with the name and contact information of the writer, or anonymously, to protect their identity.

LAYOUT: JAKE CARMAN
EDITING: THE PAN COLLECTIVE, AND
MEMBERS OF BOSTON ABC



Later, doors were barricaded, jail video surveillance cameras were broken and a computer terminal in the pod damaged. The pod's floor drains were blocked, and some cells filled with water a foot high from system's sprinkler system.

"I suspect the damage will be costly due to the damage to the floor from flooding, computer and camera system," Pallito said in his statement. "I have apologized for this incident and the damage done to their facility."

Karen Norful of Barre, the mother of a Vermonter incarcerated at the Greenfield, Mass., jail, said Saturday that she had spoken to her son by telephone and he told her that high temperatures inside the jail and lack of recreation space might have sparked the riot.

"It was over 75 degrees in there on Thursday night," Norful said. "There's also a lack of any outdoor space so there's no interaction for people," Pallito said he did not know about the jail possibly being too hot but was aware of complaints about the lack of recreation space, an issue his staff was trying to address. He said staff who recently visited the facility did not receive the kind of clues that "something was brewing."

"Our staff have made frequent trips to this site," he said.

Pallito said prison officials at the jail told him it would be a couple of weeks before the facility was completely operational.

Vermont uses out-of-state jails in Massachusetts, Kentucky and Arizona to house close to 600 of the 2,100 inmates in its custody.

Those at the Greenfield facility are mostly prisoners serving short sentences, in jail for lack of other housing or waiting for admittance to one of the Corrections Departments programs or work camps, Pallito said.

"USG" By: Kevin (Rashid)
Johnson, #1007485,
Red Onion State Prison,
P.O. Box 1900,
Pound, VA. 24279

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PAN

*pan*². l. v.t. & i. (-nn-): To swivel a television or motion-picture camera horizontally in order to keep a moving subject in view or record a panorama; or the act of panning a camera - panning movement. As the camera panned the prison yard, the number of "dead-pan" faces was astounding...

Disclaimer:

The content of the PAN newsletter is intended solely for information and education. Descriptions and claims appearing in PAN have not been independently verified and should be considered unsubstantiated. Moreover, PAN topics do not necessarily reflect the perspective of any individual involved in its content or production. Likewise, PAN topics do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of any recipient or of any individual or group mentioned in PAN. This newsletter in no way encourages or supports any illegal behavior. PAN only intends to provide a printed forum for conversation and news. We regret if any PAN entry or passage is misconstrued as a violation of state and/or federal regulations.

NEW PRISON GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Tehachapi, CA - May 2011

Greetings from the yard. I am an inmate who has started a service to my Californian incarcerated peers. I have started an organization called "The Yard." I provide resources to inmates for rehab, housing and careers info. I started out by helping my peers in the same institution but have now branched out to other prisons. By creating a newsletter called "The Yard," I have accumulated a large selection of up to date resources for every county in the state of California and constantly search for more. I send copies of my newsletter to organizations such as ABC and others in hopes that they will send them out to their students who are paroling soon. But I am now under attack. You see I am a peaceful anarchist. I do not fight, scream or demonstrate. I run for public offices, attend city councils meetings as a parolee and I was recently a program clerk here. I want to make the police and politicians my friend, to gain favor and to learn, stand side by side with them and help them so that when they leave I will be in a position to take over and make America a better place. But I was recently discovered and fired. Now they think I was using their offices to create my newsletter and copies. So now I am under investigation. I come to you for help. If you know of an organization who will make copies for me, or are you a California prisoner who would like some parole resources of your own, have a friend or family member contact "The Yard" at this address.

Bill Bradshaw v66815
Unit 1 VWU 109U
California Corrections Institution
PO Box 107
Tehachapi CA 93581

humane world for us in the future. We urge all who read these words to support us in this effort with your participation or your voices call your local news agencies, notify your friends on social networks, contact your legislators, tell your fellow faithful at church, mosques, temple or synagogues. Decades before Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Pelican Bay and Corcoran SHUs were described by Congressman Ralph Metcalfe as "the control unit treatment program is long-term punishment under the guise of what is, in fact, pseudo-scientific experimentation."

Our indefinite isolation here is both inhumane and illegal and the proponents of the prison industrial complex are hoping that their campaign to dehumanize us has succeeded to the degree that you don't care and will allow the torture to continue in your name. It is our belief that they have woefully underestimated the decency, principles, and humanity of the people. Join us in opposing this injustice without end. Thank you for your time and support.

In Solidarity,
N.C.T.T. Corcoran – SHU
4B/1C – C Section
Super-max isolation Unit

Vermont Inmates Involved in Massachusetts Jail Riot

by Sam Hemingway, Burlington Free Press, July 9, 2011
<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20110709/NEWS02/110709005/Vermont-inmates-involved-Massachusetts-jail-riot>

A Greenfield, Mass., prison is on lockdown status following a three-hour riot Thursday night led by 15 Vermont inmates housed at the facility, state Corrections Commissioner Andrew Pallito said Saturday.

No inmates or jail guards were injured during the Franklin County Jail and House of Detention melee, which was brought under control early Friday morning after guards and police deployed pepper spray and "flash-bang" compression grenades to get the inmates to return to their cells, Pallito said.

[...]

According to Pallito and local news reports from the Greenfield area, the riot began around 9:30 p.m. Thursday as inmates at the jail were being locked in their cells for the evening. Vermont has 105 inmates housed at the facility.

A group of inmates, most of them Vermonters but including two Massachusetts prisoners, started throwing furniture over a railing into a common area below in the Pod A section of the prison.

Statement of Solidarity with the Pelican Bay Collective Hunger Strike - June 2011

From: the N.C.T.T. Corcoran SHU

Greetings to all who support freedom, justice, and equality. We here of the N.C.T.T. SHU stand in solidarity with, and in full support of the July 1st hunger strike and the 5 major action points and sub-points as laid out by the Pelican Bay Collective in the Policy Statements (See, "Archives", P.B.S.P.-SHU-D corridor hunger strike).

What many are unaware of is that facility 4B here in Corcoran SHU is designated to house validated prisoners in indefinite SHU confinement and have an identical ultra-super max isolation unit short corridor modeled after corridor D in Pelican Bay, complete with blacked out windows a mirror tinted glass on the towers so no one but the gun tower can see in [into our cells], and none of us can see out; flaps welded to the base of the doors and sandbags on the tiers to prevent "fishing" [a means of passing notes, etc. between cells using lengths of string]; IGI [Institutional Gang Investigators] transports us all to A.C.H. medical appointments and we have no contact with any prisoners or staff outside of this section here in 4B/1C C Section, the "short corridor" of the Corcoran SHU. All of the deprivations (save access to sunlight); outlines in the 5-point hunger strike statement are mirrored, and in some instances intensified here in the Corcoran SHU 4B/1C C Section isolation gang unit.

Medical care here, in a facility allegedly designed to house chronic care and prisoners with psychological problems, is so woefully inadequate that it borders on intentional disdain for the health of prisoners, especially where diabetics and cancer are an issue. Access to the law library is denied for the most mundane reasons, or, most often, no reason at all. Yet these things and more are outlined in the P.B.S.P.-SHU five core demands.

What is of note here, and something that should concern all U.S. citizens, is the increasing use of behavioral control (torture units) and human experimental techniques against prisoners not only in California but across the nation. Indefinite confinement, sensory deprivation, withholding food, constant illumination, use of unsubstantiated lies from informants are the psychological billy clubs being used in these torture units. The purpose of this "treatment" is to stop prisoners from standing in opposition to inhumane prison conditions and prevent them from exercising their basic human rights.

Many lawsuits have been filed in opposition to the seg. units in these conditions ... yet the courts have repeatedly re-interpreted and misinterpreted their own constitutional law ... to support the state's continued use of these torture units. When approved means of protest and redress of rights are prove meaningless and are fully exhausted, then the pursuit of those ends through other means is necessary.

It is important for all to know the Pelican Bay Collective is not alone in this struggle and the broader the participation and support for this hunger strike, the other such efforts, the greater the potential that our sacrifice now will mean a more

UPDATES ON CONTINUOUS RESISTANCE

Texas Prisoncrats Ban "Defying the Tomb"

Committee to Free Alvaro Luna Hernandez Report

DEFYING THE TOMB, by Kevin "Rashid" Johnson, New Afrikan Black Panther Party/Prison Chapter Minister of Defense, sent to Chicano political prisoner Alvaro Luna Hernandez by Seattle's Inside Out Books, was banned from Texas prisons. Alvaro protested this censorship and demonstrated not only the incompetence of the prison mailroom authorities, but also showed the exaggerated and discriminatory nature of the decision to ban.

Because of Alvaro's protests of the ban and his criticisms of the flagrant violations of the human rights of all prisoners in the "control unit" where Alvaro is being caged, the mailroom supervisor G. Vandiver threatened to "put on a negative mail list" Alvaro's mail correspondents and supporters in retaliation for Alvaro protesting First Amendment violations and the ongoing brutal prison conditions and mistreatment in this "control unit." These brutal prison conditions had been previously declared unconstitutional by a federal judge in the case of Ruiz v. Johnson, 37 F. Supp. 2d 855 (S.D. Tex. Houston Division) in March 1, 1999, but nothing has changed since then. The only thing that has changed is the names of the victims added to a long list of prisoners who have been driven to suicide due to the psychologically repressive conditions of long term isolation in solitary confinement, conditions the federal judge described as "torture", especially of the great number of mentally ill prisoners held under these horrific conditions. See: Ruiz, 37 F. Supp. 2d at 940.

Censorship of this publication is not an "isolated incident." It is part of a larger fascist program of political repression orchestrated by the political police of Homeland Security that targets "radical prisoners" and the suppression of ideas in literature by prisoncrats that speaks truth to corrupt power. Prisoncrats fear slaves will re-educate themselves, create unity, discover their humanity and true class interests and make a stand in defense of their human rights, much like the Georgia prisoners recently did, in the fascist juggernaut that imprisons over 2.3 million people and reaps super profits to the ruling corporate class from mass incarceration, mostly of the poor and people of color. Political prisoners like Alvaro, who are at the forefront of the NEW PRISON MOVEMENT in this country, are being targeted for specialized repression, for he fears not the oppressors and dares to struggle and seize the times. See: www.freealvaro.net.

This attack on the politically conscious freedom fighters is connected to the government policies of breeding a culture of fear, mistrust, and division of communities, with its informant and snitch mentality and fostering mass hysteria with its Islamophobia in an effort to destroy poor people's unity, serious grassroots leader-

ship and cripple popular movement organizations, in the streets and in the prison cellblock. We must respond. If we fail to see the forest because of the trees, or bury our heads in the sand, we are only paving the way for more fascist repression. Alvaro deserves our respect, support and solidarity.

Please make phone calls (254) 865-6663 to the Hughes Unit, and to Texas prison authorities 1(800)-535-0281, and write letters of protest to the Texas prison officials listed below.

Letters of support and solidarity can be mailed to Alvaro at:

Alvaro Luna Hernandez,
TDCJ-CID#255735, Hughes Unit,
Rt.-2, Box 4400,
Gatesville, Texas 76597-0001
Prison Officials:

Mr. Edward Smith,
Senior Warden, Hughes Unit,
Rt.-2, Box 4400,
Gatesville, Texas 76597-0001

Mr. Brad Livingston,
Executive Director – TDCJ,
30009-A, Highway 30 West,
Huntsville, Texas 77340
(936) 437-4271

TDCJ Inspector General,
P.O. Box 4003,
Huntsville, Texas 77342
(936) 437-8035
e-mail: ombudsman@tdcj.state.tx.us

Reagan Duncan,
Program Supervisor II,
Access to the Courts Department,
2405 Avenue I, Suite-J,
Huntsville, Texas 77340
(936) 437-5374

COMMITTEE to FREE ALVARO
LUNA HERNANDEZ,
P.O. Box 7187,
Austin, Texas 78713
(512) 320-0511
e-mail: twitchon@hotmail.com

Sara Falconer, Toronto
e-mail: torontoabcf@gmail.com
Inter'l Spokesperson

Max Kantar, Big Rapids, MI.
e-mail: maxkantar@gmail.com
Midwest Rep.

Kamama Utsi,
e-mail: indigenousinfowarrior@gmail.com
Los Angeles, CA.

Mapachine, e-mail: abcf@gmail.com
Los Angeles, CA. West Coast Rep.

Clayton Dewey, Denver, CO.
e-mail: denverabc@rocketmail.com
Southwest Rep.

Pelican Bay SHU Hunger Strike Starts July 1, 2011

Taken from California Prison Focus (<http://www.prisons.org/hungerstrike.htm>)
29 May 2011

OVERVIEW

Prisoners in the Security Housing Unit (SHU) at Pelican Bay State Prison (California) are going on an indefinite hunger strike as of July 1, 2011 to protest the cruel and inhumane conditions of their imprisonment. The hunger strike was organized by prisoners in an unusual show of racial unity. The hunger strikers developed five core demands. Briefly they are:

1. Eliminate group punishments. Instead, practice individual accountability. When an individual prisoner breaks a rule, the prison often punishes a whole group of prisoners of the same race. This policy has been applied to keep prisoners in the SHU indefinitely and to make conditions increasingly harsh.

2. Abolish the debriefing policy and modify active/inactive gang status criteria. Prisoners are accused of being active or inactive participants of prison gangs using false or highly dubious evidence, and are then sent to long-term isolation (SHU). They can escape these tortuous conditions only if they “debrief,” that is, provide information on gang activity. Debriefing produces false information (wrongly landing other prisoners in SHU, in an endless cycle) and can endanger the lives of debriefing prisoners and their families.

3. Comply with the recommendations of the US Commission on Safety and Abuse in Prisons (2006) regarding an end to long-term solitary confinement. This bipartisan commission specifically recommended to “make segregation a last resort” and “end conditions of isolation.” Yet as of May 18, 2011, California kept 3,259 prisoners in SHUs and hundreds more in Administrative Segregation waiting for a SHU cell to open up. Some prisoners have been kept in isolation for more than thirty years.

4. Provide adequate food. Prisoners report unsanitary conditions and small quantities of food that do not conform to prison regulations. There is no accountability or independent quality control of meals.

5. Expand and provide constructive programs and privileges for indefinite SHU inmates. The hunger strikers are pressing for opportunities “to engage in self-help treatment, education, religious and other productive activities...” Currently these opportunities are routinely denied, even if the prisoners want to pay for correspondence courses themselves. Examples of privileges the prisoners want are: one phone call per week, and permission to have sweatsuits and watch caps. (Often warm clothing is denied, though the cells and exercise cage can be bitterly cold.) All of the privileges mentioned in the demands are already allowed at other SuperMax prisons (in the federal prison system and other states).

From: <http://signalfire.org/?p=9496>

Graphic by Todd (Hyung-Rae)
Tarselli BY-8028, 175 Progress Drive.
Waynesburgh, PA 15370



Medical Examiners Report 4 Killed in February Minya Prison Riot - April, 2011

<http://www.almasryalyoum.com/en/node/400135>
by Al-Masry Al-Youm English edition

Four inmates were killed and 17 others wounded in an escape attempt at Minya Prison in Upper Egypt on 14 February, according to a report by medical examiners.

The report said deaths and injuries resulted from tear gas and gunfire from security forces, in addition to stampeding and stone throwing. The head of Minya's plenary prosecution services, Ayman Mamdouh, listened to the accounts of 14 prisoners who confirmed that their fellow inmates were shot dead, while the rest were either injured by bullets or suffocated.

They also said that some prisoners dug out flagstones from cell floors and used them in the clash with security officers. Mamdouh ordered medical examiners to locate the injured who were mentioned in the reports made for each prisoner wounded during the fight. On 14 February, the prisoners took four policemen as hostages in a bid to force security to open the prison gates, which developed into a three-hour clash, after which security forces regained control.

Unauthorized Work Force - May 2011 Sheik Mark S. Moore-El Missouri Prison Labor Union Report

Behind several barbed-wire fences, is a 150,000-volt fence and security tower taller than all the buildings with identification check-points under the tightest security of any one of the Missouri Department of Corrections' (MDOC) "Million-Dollar" High Tech factories of private production of goods for the consumer's use by "Labor Marketing."

Work is supplied by over 350 prisoners throughout five or more series of connected buildings; all are sections of production for Labor for companies out in society.

The prisoners employed in these sections allegedly were convicted for serious crimes with long sentences. The daily clothing prisoners wear is a uniform of gray, an outfit that allows them to blend into the factory scenery; and patrolled constantly by security that exert power authority and force. These are no normal work days for the prison labor force, each man works (9) to (10) hours and receives only .20c to .35c per hour; this is less than any Third World country labor wage – Honduran laborers earn \$1.75 to \$2.00 an hour.

While Missouri (MDOC) prisoners, under the Human Rights Declaration, are paid less than 20% of a Honduran laborer, so it's cheaper for the United States labor system to operate here than anywhere else. Prison systems offer cheaper labor and prisoners don't receive the job discounts, worker's compensation insurance, health care, or tax credits.

The profit from prisoner labor is very good for the economy, while the reality of the labor is tough on the prisoner. Unemployment being at a record high, there are also record numbers of persons behind bars in the U.S. Prison labor increases are showing in telemarketing, clothing manufacturing, furniture plants, and (all state's) license plates, as well as stainless steel welding.

As prisoners undertake labor opportunities equally affordable for a prison system and company, more and more companies look to prisons for labor in this bad economy. Increases in prison labor should be causing more debate in every state legislature on the role prison officials play in economic growth from labor forces under their control and authority. The United States Congress must question how 3 million prisoners' role in an economy holding traditional jobs under government authority for private companies for less than minimum wage for (9) or (10) hours per day of production than the job originally paid out.

This makes filling government contracts by state-run prison operations for private enterprises of annual sales expanding each year into the hundreds of millions of dollars. A critical legislative debate in the midst of this country's economy and annual sales increases and prisoner's labor work force increases have spread quickly by helping the profits of the elite rather than the many; the gross overall increases of an economic statistic for a state should concern legislatures. Economic benefits of each company's dealings with prison labor must be examined for legal purposes and financial credits/incentives given to companies.

The two parties (legislature & company) may differ on standards of financial growth under the law, while the supporters (prison officials & companies) of prisoner employment see it as an expansion of inexpensive productive labor. The past ten years of educational programs, activities, and reform programs have been eliminated, causing prisoners to....want jobs because they had nothing of constructive value to take with them when re-entering society. This has forced laborers in prison to utilize work as a pastime aside from the income, and the roots for voluntary labor to private companies for low or in some cases NO pay. Prison labor under these circumstances has the potential for human rights abuse, prisoners have no bargaining power other than unity as workers; thus are exploited into hazardous employment – and threaten outside work force laborers by taking decades-old jobs away. More prisoners want to work than are available jobs.

The unrest from job market decreases in the U.S. is decreasing at a rate proportionate to the maximum incarceration capacities and prison job increases.

This has allowed (MDOC) prison officials to expand their work force to one of the U.S.' largest prison job sectors in the country; the legislature should make corrections on prison labor and financial credits/incentives given to profiteering companies.



Todd (Hyung-Rae) Tarselli BY-8028
175 Progress Drive.
Waynesburg, PA 15370

27 December – Odessa, TX –

An inmate escaped from the Ector County Annex.

29 December – Cincinnati, OH –

An inmate smashed out a second story window and jumped to his escape at the Hamilton County jail.

31 December – Cumberland, MD –

Eight COs from the North Branch Correctional Institution were attacked by inmates. Two suffered facial injuries, one sustained an injury to their knee, the others were hospitalized for exposure to pepper spray.

03 January – Lucasville, OH –

After a hunger strike by 3 well respected prisoners, as well as riots by fellow inmates, Ohio state prisons are now allowing “semi-contact” visits for prisoners.

22 January – Yuba City, CA –

An inmate scaled a chain-link fence topped with razor wire and escaped from Sutter County Jail.

24 January – San Luis Obispo, CA –

For three days a thousand inmates demonstrated against worsening conditions at California Men’s Colony by refusing state issued meals.

24 January – Graceville, FL –

A riot at DOVE facility for girls left several staff members injured.

25 January – Cincinnati, OH –

A Hamilton County Jail inmate injured 3 COs – pulling one down a flight of stairs, punching another, and lashing out at a third all while being restrained.

29 January – Seattle, WA –

A CO was found strangled with a microphone cord in the prison chapel at the Washington State Prison. This was the first Washington CO killed in 30 years and the only one at Monroe.

30 January – Eastman, GA –

More than 60 inmates rioted at the Youth Development Facility, setting small fires with bed linens, and assaulting a CO with a broomstick.

11 February – Marion, IL –

Three inmates escaped from a U.S. Penitentiary.

11 February – Las Cruces, NM –

An inmate escaped from John Paul Taylor Juvenile Detention Facility.

16 February – Monroe, WA –

A counselor at the Monroe Correctional Center was attacked and injured by an inmate.

20 February – Forsyth, GA –

Inmates rioted after being denied a hot meal at Monroe County Jail.

24 February – Centre Hall, PA –

During a riot by juveniles at Meadows Psychiatric Center several employees were injured and a trooper sustained several broken bones.

24 February – Jackson, MS –

An inmate walked away from Hinds County Restitution Center.

16 November – Chapel Hill, NC –

A Pasquotank Correctional Institution inmate receiving medical treatment at a UNC hospital slipped away from their guards, stole a patrol car, and led authorities on a high-speed chase spanning two counties.

18 November – Plattsburgh, NY –

An inmate at the Clinton County Jail was involved in an “incident with a CO” that resulted in a charge of assault in the second degree, according to the county sheriff.

12 November – Manchester, NH –

An inmate escaped from the Calumet Transitional Housing Unit.

22 November – Salem, OR –

An Oregon State Hospital security employee sustained facial fractures and a broken ankle when they were attacked by a jail inmate undergoing a mental evaluation.

23 November – Elmhurst, NY –

More than a dozen COs were injured at the Otis Bantum Correctional Center after a violent night on Rikers Island.

25 November – Sheridan, OR –

Four inmates walked away from the FCI Sheridan work camp.

26 November – Brownsville, TN –

An inmate escaped the Haywood County Jail by squeezing through a 4.5” gap of cell bars.

08 December – Malacatán, San Marcos, Guatemala –

15 people armed with assault rifles and a grenade launcher helped an inmate escape.

09 December – Georgia –

In the largest prison strike in American history, tens of thousands of inmates in ten state prisons refused to leave their cells and report to work or other activities. The seven day strike was coordinated for months with contraband cell phones in response to wages, health care and nutrition, among other things.

11 December – Somers, NY –

Some 30 “students” at the Lincoln Hall School for Boys rioted for about an hour until it was quelled by state police.

14 December – Iowa City, IA –

A Jefferson County inmate braved the 10 degree weather in nothing but a hospital gown and slippers as they escaped their warders while receiving medical treatment.

16 December – Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Mexico –

One-hundred-forty-eight escaped from a state prison.

17 December – Mineral Wells, TX –

Approximately 30 inmates refused to go to their assigned housing locations on the north side of the Corrections Corporation of America’s Pre-Parole Transfer Facility.

18 December – Toronto, Ontario, CAN –

An inmate being booked into the Toronto West Detention Center attacked 2 guards with a roofing hammer and “uttered death threats” as he smashed computers and furniture in the prison admissions area.

25 December – Wartburg, TN –

An inmate from Morgan County Correctional Complex escaped by climbing the perimeter fence.

NPVM – (New Panther Vanguard Movement) Update

Peace and revolutionary Greetings Comrades,

After 15 years of being confined in the bowels of the Beast, I am now waiting to be released. I was granted parole on 1 April 2011. I first would like to give thanks to all those who have supported me during these troublesome years but moreso, the love of a comrade that was extended to me by you all. The struggle is now just beginning.

Upon my release and in the next submission of PAN, you will be given the address for the NPVM National Office. Many should already have the International Office in Los Angeles, CA. at our Law Firm. There will be many services provided for those who really need help, including book programs and basic computer skills programs that we previously said will be available.

We will resubmit all of the various programs again as well as the rules that accompany for participants.

I encourage those of you who are truly seeking assistance to go ahead and contact me personally at this time so I can know what you be needing and this will allow you first opportunity to our services. I will inform you if the assistance that you request will be available or not.

Anyone seeking membership or desirous of simply being supporters, please inform me of that as well and the necessary paperwork can/will be mailed to you immediately.

Again I thank you all for your support and let’s do all that we can to “MAKE A REVOLUTION” a reality in this decadent society and rebuild a society that is filled with peace, justice, true freedom and equality. I leave you with the clenched fist salute!!!

With honor and Loyalty,
and Peace-In Struggle-I Remain,

x Sidney (Shariyf) Williams
TDCJ-CID# 563001
59 Darrington Road
Rosharon, Texas 77583

Texas Prisoners' Freedom Agenda Report - May 2011

The Texas Prisoners' Freedom Agenda Campaign (TPFA) requests a call of support and action. TPFA promotes an agenda that unifies and identifies problems important to all Texas prisoners and asserts fundamental demands be met to correct them.

TPFA advances the rights and freedoms for prisoners, friend & families, and all free-world directly/indirectly impacted by the Prison Industrial Complex/Criminal Justice abuse country-wide and in Texas.

The TPFA relies on all free-world society members and communities everywhere for its campaign to succeed. Therefore it's critical the TPFA utilize all grassroots methods in building an effective network, to link all TDCJ prisoners to our families, friends, and free-world communities.

Accordingly we call on all Texas prisoners, their friends, supporters, and families to join forces by enlisting comrades and the free-worlders as new TPFA Members to the campaign in whatever way that's available. We need tech support and administrative coordination; a guaranteed health care; the Texas Freedom Examiner and Report Newsletter; TPFA's social network on "Myspace" (www.myspace.com/txprisonersfreedomagenda); and other varied TPFA activities and projects needing attention.

Be part of a solution; stand up; stand together; and speak out against prison abuse and injustice! Take action now! Help organize and build the freedom campaign; to show support for the campaign and how to disseminate information:

Free-World persons/groups may write me directly at:
Danny Bonds, TDCJ-CID# 542646,
Michael Unit,
2664 F.M. 2054,
Tennessee Colony, Texas 75886

Oppression is worse than death! Stiff Resistance! Freedom & Justice for ALL Texas Prisoners!

Danny Bonds,
TPFA Campaign Coordinator

16 October – McMinnville, TN –

Two inmates escaped the Warren County Jail by digging through a wall with a metal toilet part.

17 October – Port-au-Prince, Haiti –

A riot erupted at the National Penitentiary as nearly 100 UN Police Officers were being given a tour inside, seven of which were briefly taken hostage. A trio of prisoners overpowered several guards and stripped them of their weapons – 3 shotguns and an M-14 rifle – and were later killed as they tried to escape.

19 October – Calipatria, CA –

A riot involving up to 120 inmates at the Calipatria State Prison ended when COs opened fire and wounded two.

21 October – Lumberton, NC –

An inmate escaped from the Robeson Correctional Center's work-release program by bolting in a van stolen at a job site.

24 October – Pattonsburg, MO –

Three inmates crawled under the fence at the Daviess/DeKalb County Jail and escaped.

25 October – Bayport, MN –

Following a fight between 2 inmates at Minnesota CF-Stillwater, about 90 other inmates refused to return to their cells as cellblock B-West was put on lock down.

28 October – Victoria, TX –

Two inmates escaped the Victoria Regional Juvenile Justice Center after assaulting a detention officer, taking his radio, and breaking open the recreation yard's gate.

30 October – Brownfield, TX –

An inmate, who escaped once previously, assaulted a Terry County Jail correctional officer in a 2nd attempt.

01 November – Reno, NV –

Staff members attempted to break up a violent altercation at the Willow Springs adolescent treatment facility when 40 inmates assaulted staff members while encouraging others to join in.

05 November – Louisville, KY –

An inmate disappeared from their halfway house.

07 November – Taos, NM –

Two Taos County Jail inmates gained access to the control center where they were able to unlock the front door and walk out.

08 November – Pine Knot, KY –

Two guards were stabbed at USP-McCreary while conducting a routine cell search.

11 November – DeBary, FL –

A state prisoner doing roadside work rode away on a lawnmower.

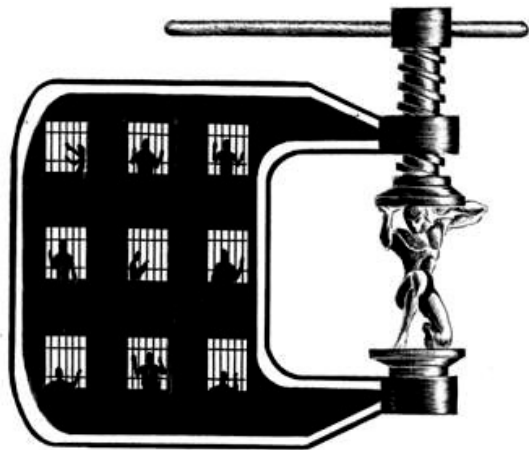
13 November – Monticello, NY –

A Sullivan Co. CO was punched in the mouth while trying to restrain an inmate who refused to enter their cell.

15 November – Troy, MO –

Two inmates escaped the County Jail.

Chronology of North American Prisoner Resistance - May 2011



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Adapted from **Fire to the Prisons #11**

01 October – Santa Barbara, CA –

A Santa Barbara County Jail deputy suffered a broken nose and bruises to head and torso after being punched and kicked by an inmate.

02 October – Rome, GA –

A Floyd County Jail inmate was charged with felony interference with government property after knocking the head off a sprinkler. The incident recurs on December 28th.

06 October – Florence, CO –

A US Penitentiary AdMax Facility guard was stabbed three times with a homemade weapon.

08 October – Wilmington, DE –

Five inmates escaped the Plummer Community Corrections Center.

10 October – Bastrop, TX

An inmate was discovered missing from the Federal Correctional Institution.

Graphic (above) by Todd (Hyung-Rae)
Tarselli BY-8028, 175 Progress Drive.
Waynesburgh, PA 15370

13 October – Saegertown, PA –

A Crawford County Correctional Facility officer was hospitalized after an assault by an inmate.

THE ALMIGHTY PEN AND PAPER: GRIEVANCES AND LEGAL WORK

Complaint of unprofessional behavior and deliberate indifference - April, 2011

I am assigned to the TDCJ-CID Stiles Unit's Administrative Segregation, suffering under Code of Ethical Misconduct by correctional officers, having my food trays contaminated by unknown substances. Ranking officers turn a blind eye even after informing them several times of this atrocious behavior what we term "Freak Tactics."

I've filed grievances several times and personally talked with Warden Knoll, and wrote Huntsville, Texas District, State Representative Ms. Breaux, on the State Class Committee (10-25-10); only to catch a major infraction for stating "what y'all gone wait 'till I do something to somebody before you all do something."

I talked to, and filed Life Endangerment complaints against certain staff members I knew for participating in "catch-out tactic" that certain correctional officials have been doing still (3-21-11), to Lt. Alpo and Captain Farrah to no avail. I have all the proof I need, a 6-year study testing positive for H. Pylori Stomach Bacteria Infection that shows with each medical examination report of my stomach, esophagus, and throat problems.

I'd like to know how I can report this inappropriateness regardless of these distorted minds calling me a "snitch" behind my way of speaking up for my rights instead of acting out violently and aggressive as this oppressive system stigmatizes the so-called not "clean" Black Man to be, or if I haven't reacted violently or aggressively; I must be lying.

How can I sacrifice my integrity by being a part of the struggle and PAN Prison Action News and direct this to appropriate stations to expose this so other prisoners won't have to go through what I've been through and still going through by this administration's neglect and Deliberate Indifference to my medical needs? C.O. Ms. Kelvin, C.O. Ms. McDaniels, C.O. Ms. Pitjean, C.O. Ms. Jordan, C.O. Ms. Edwards, C.O. Ms. Neal, C.O. Mr. Rodgers, C.O. Price; have all participated in these encroachments.

Mark Allen

New Boston, TX

Dear Brothers and Sisters in/at Arms:

I am still fighting a losing battle here in the Infirmary at Barry Telford Unit. I am a G2/S3 (Custody Level) Disabled patient/offender. I am locked down 23 hours per day. We are treated like Ad Seg. offenders since the same officers work Infirmary and the Solitary Building. We are allowed 1 hour in the Dayroom per day, no outside recreation, no church, and no education. We are even served the same Ad-Seg. restricted food, like no food with bones (i.e.) pork chops, baked chicken, etc... We even have medical issues, not discipline problems.

My Step One and Step Two Grievances have been fruitless, I need to file the necessary court papers; I'm at the end of my rope – but I'm not giving up! If I don't fight who will?! TDCJ needs to answer for their actions; they are guilty of ADA discrimination, torture, medical Deliberate Indifference and a plethora of other grievous actions. We cannot stop fighting for justice and proper treatment, we are Human Beings! If you know of any advice of assistance please contact me. Our adversary is powerful and they don't play fair. It's up to us, never say die! Peace.

Donald Cain TDCJ-CID#484656,
Telford Unit,
3899 State Hwy. 98,
New Boston, Texas 75570

D.W. Cain,
614 Carriage Way,
Duncanville, Texas 75137

Gatesville, TX - June 2011

Allow me to update you on my case. I filed my old 2003 11.07 through 297th District Clerk, Thomas A. Wilder of Fort Worth; he sent it to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The District Attorney wrote that I had no evidence to support my claim, so I filed a "Brief with New Evidence," the Judge Everett Young of the sentencing court, wrote that he was asking the TCCA to "Dismiss my Claim without Prejudice;" the Court of Criminal Appeals returned all of my paperwork in the Brief - and wrote that they cannot see this case until another time. Meanwhile – the District Clerk wrote that I should file a "Motion to Leave" and send all my old original records to Judge Young. I see this is a "Civil Rights" issue and not a "Criminal" issue.

Ms. Inita Johnson,
TDCJ-CID# 858083,
Mountain View Unit,
2305 Ransom Road,
Gatesville, Texas 76528

DIRECT ACTION/ NON-COMPLIANCE

May 2011

My name is Manuel Salas. some know me from past writings in PAN, some do not. I was moved again, this time to WCI and I keep up my fight. I'm not doing good, I cant do a lot, but my love still stays strong after being moved. WCI staff stopped my vegan food and the hunger strikes started. Also other hell, breaking food trays and more. I'm in seg so doing all I can. I've lost about 20lbs from the last time I got weighed, but I do not care. If I shall die then that is what has to come for my love for animals.

As of now my law suits are on hold because I cannot get the DOC to give me the rest of my papers. I can send them in some time soon when I get them I hope!

Both barer(?) cases are over with and no time came of them so I am glad I got away with the barer(?) to the 2 fucked up 40's. Next time I think they will think twice before acting. Next, WI is trying to only feed us 2 times a day. I ask anyone reading in WI if this happens come together and do not take this. I'm already on a hell of a fight and will fight for any wrong done to us. But some others need to stand up and stop allowing the WI DOC to do what they are doing. The more you let them get away with the more they will take away. I fight because I have rights. Now let's stand in unity and take over.

Also Black August is coming. Not too many in WI that I knew of took part in this last year. Let's try and get more to show respect no matter what race you are. Until we can over see race we will never get nowhere in life.

I live to die for my beliefs.

In solidarity

Salas
animal rights activist

UIM-FIRST (Unity in Masses- For Institutional Reform & Systematic Tour de force)

There's a policy in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice that keeps people that have been convicted of crimes against children from having visits with anyone under the age of seventeen if the child is the victim of the crime for which they were convicted; this includes their own children.

Now, before you cheer this policy as a means to keeping pedophiles or child abusers from having access to children, it needs to be pointed out that this policy covers any crime that causes injury to a child. For those who haven't clicked yet, that includes the dubious diagnosis of "shaken baby syndrome." I use the term dubious here because it seems that the medical profession is split on whether this is a valid medical diagnosis or simply a travesty of justice. It has actually been referred to as "diagnosis of murder"; and many are calling for it to be banned in U.S. courtrooms.

Sadly, however, there are hundreds of people in this country sitting in prison today because of this so-called syndrome. And the Texas victims of the junk-science diagnosis do not have the right to visit with their children if those children were the victims. And even if they weren't the victims, the Texas offender cannot have a contact visit with his or her son or daughter if the child is under the age of seventeen.

It's quite likely that the medical profession will one day come to terms with their mistake regarding the whole shaken- baby thing, and a decade or so after that, the judicial system will get in step as well. In the meantime, though, we were at U.I.M.-F.I.R.S.T. are in the process of educating as many as possible of the Texas prison system's ridiculous policy of not allowing parents to visit with their children while incarcerated. As is typically the case with prison policies this one goes way too far in its attempts to protect. Because some of the "victims" in these instances of shaken-baby syndrome, (as well as several other offenses prosecutors lump all under the category of "Injury to a child") are the so-called perpetrators, whose only crime was that they weren't perfect parents and their actions resulted in an accidental injury to their son or daughter.

So, why is this so important to us? Because even though the wheels of [in] justice turn slowly, that doesn't mean that those incarcerated individuals who are forced to wait patiently for justice to prevail should be made to do so without having contact with their children.

If you would like to learn more about this topic, visit us at U.I.M.-F.I.R.S.T.org

Or write to us at: UIM-FIRST
Postfach 1105
67564 Osthofen, Germany

Steps That Can be Used to Prove Your Innocence

I will start by saying it is essential that you have an education. It does not matter if you're 15 or 60 years old, if you have to take Adult Basic Education or GED classes, if need be, do it. You "MUST" comprehend and understand Law. Keep all of your legal work you get, every proceeding, make sure you get your copy. Once that is accomplished, pick up your state rules and criminal procedures, start reading it from an initial arrest up to where you are in your case. Study case law concerning your appeal issues. Even if you have an attorney, practice brief writing. Nine times out of 10, your current/prior attorney is a big reason you're sitting where you are now. There are strict time lines for filing appeals. Filing one minute too late can get you time barred. Being time barred is one the worst situations to be in. It's an obstacle that the bar has set extremely high to get over. You do not want to be told you can't appeal your conviction. A lot of us did not come from solid support systems. So when it's time to organize a Team to combat your situation, you are only as strong as your foundation.

The following views are from the book "In the Company of Giants" by Paul J. Ciolino (2005, iUniverse, Lincoln, NE) [The Team Concept], if you're a prisoner rotting in jail for a crime that did not commit, we hope you're paying attention. Because, if the team is not assembled properly, you will likely die where you are sitting. [The Team is Born]: Here is the reality; you are on your 7th year of a 50-year sentence for a crime in which you had no part. Because of a myriad of reasons such as police misconduct, misidentification, etc., you have been convicted and your subsequent appeals have been denied. Your family is poor, you are broke and basically nobody gives a damn. In other words, your prospects for seeing next year's Super Bowl in person are slim. What do you do?

The first thing you do not do is give up. There are people out there who will listen to you. They may not be attorneys, journalists or private investigators. It could be a professor at a local university. It may be just about anybody who cares about justice. But, it is going to be your job to find them.

They generally will not seek you out. If they have a reputation for doing this sort of work, believe when I tell you they already have plenty to do. You are not even on their radar screen. You need to think about whom you decide to choose before you do anything.

Writing letters to famous lawyers, Obama or your respective governor may make you feel better, but it's a waste of time. They get hundreds of letters a years from people like us. For the most part, their eyes will never see them. You need a standard simple letter, 2-5 pages, typed and in some sort of logical order. Where were you arrested and by whom? Who prosecuted the case? Who was/were your lawyer(s)? What are the basic facts of the crime you were alleged to have committed, i.e. who, what, where, when and how? It doesn't matter if you didn't do it. Tell what was alleged. Send the name of a relative/friend that can be contacted. Keep it simple.

So, now you have written a letter or several letters and somebody has decided to take a look at your train wreck of a case. If it wasn't a train wreck, you wouldn't be reading this. In any event, what happens next? The most critical aspect of any

wrongful conviction case is simply the paper trail. Needed is all transcripts, police reports, lab results and crime scene material. Your case can't operate without them. Initially, everything rides on you and your Team's ability to gather the paper work of your case. It's simply the roadmap to your eventual release. Without a complete set and careful review of your paper work, the effort will be ineffective and futile. Failure is almost guaranteed. Now you have an idea how to get the attention you need. I can't stress this enough, education is a must, don't let peer pressure or pride stop you from regaining your Freedom. All of the above works, I'm living proof. I started, if you have to, you can do the same.

Lorenzo Johnson DF1036
SCI Mahanoy
301 Morea Road
Frackville, PA 17932

Tennessee Colony, TX

I finally got some Law Library Policy Survey forms mailed out. I have been mailing them out since June, 2008 and, in my last update, November 2010, I reported I had mailed out 41 total, and received 11 responses (Only 5 actually answered the one survey question), since I started. I mailed out [2] more, but received no responses. Still, no one reading PAN has requested a copy of the survey from me.

I have filed [14] grievances since 11/1/10. [Two} concerned not being allowed to wear our state-issued jackets into the Law Library. We can wear them all over the unit, except the Law Library. Responding to the first grievance, #2011041413, unit staff claimed the jackets were not because they are "personal property." At Step-2, I pointed out we are allowed to wear our commissary-purchased thermals and that the jackets are state property. The Regional "Access to Courts" official responded, "Your grievance has been noted." Then, unit staff changed the reason for not allowing jackets to "security reasons."

At Step-2, in Grievance #2011100457, I stated that, the fact that Law Library officers were too sorry to search us, did not qualify as "security reasons," since policy requires they search us. The response did not come from "Access to Courts," but from another type of administrator, who wrote, "Step-1 response has properly addressed your complaint." Subjects of the other grievances included not getting meat-free "johnnies"/sack-meals during lock-downs [3], mail [3], indigent correspondence supplies [2], Law Library Access [1], getting a cell/cellmate change [1], replacing my worn out boots [1], and an officer ordering me to break a rule [1].

My lawsuit about prison officials refusing to return .40c to my "books" (trust account) that they withdrew for documents I requested, but they later refused to deliver was dismissed on 10/1/10. Though the judge dismissed it based on a law

Only by organizing and building a people's movement - the Civil Rights Movement - did Black people win their human and civil rights. The Movement transformed the South, the U.S. , and the entire world.

For formerly incarcerated people, the promise of the Civil Rights movement - full civil rights and an end to Jim Crow - remains unfulfilled. Just consider the over four million formerly incarcerated people who are denied their voting rights.

Guided by this history, and inspired by demands for justice in the U.S. and around the world - from the prisoner strike in Georgia to the Egyptian revolution - a vibrant new movement is now being born as formerly incarcerated people join together to secure our full civil and human rights.

From February 28 - March 2, 2011, formerly incarcerated people from around the country will gather in Montgomery and Selma to develop a common platform regarding restoration of civil rights, stopping prison expansion, elimination of excessive punishments, and protecting the dignity of family members and communities. The gathering, hosted by The Ordinary People's Society of Alabama, will include formerly incarcerated leaders from dozens of groups from around the country, including co-conveners All of Us or None (CA), Women on the Rise Telling Her Story (NY), National Exhodus Council (PA), A New Way of Life (CA), Direct Action for Rights and Equality (RI) and more.

After meeting, we will take action: on March 1, the eve of the Bloody Sunday anniversary, and with the blessing of Civil Rights veterans from Alabama and beyond, we will march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, signaling our intent to fulfill the promise of the Civil Rights Movement. The following day, we will rally at the statehouse in Montgomery, just steps away from Dr. King's old church.

The only way to secure our full civil and human rights is to organize a people's movement. Launching this national movement from the epicenter of the Civil Rights struggle is a symbolic action of great power, invoking similar moments such as Stonewall, the Great Grape Boycott, and the Seneca Falls Declaration of Sentiments.

Pastor Kenneth Glasgow
Founder, National President
The Ordinary People Society (TOPS)
403 West Powell St.
Dothan, AL 36303
Web: www.wearetops.org or www.theordinarypeoplesociety.com or
wearetops.blogspot.com, www.ordinarypeoplenews.com

From Montgomery to Los Angeles and Beyond: Formerly Incarcerated People Building a Movement - February, 2011

By Kenneth Glasgow and Dorsey Nunn, AlterNet
<http://www.alternet.org/story/149975/>

Would you feel like a full citizen if most of your civil and human rights were denied you? If the privileges afforded to community members were withheld from you, would you feel like a welcome member of the community? Probably not.

As formerly incarcerated people, every day is another reminder that we do not have full access to our civil and human rights. Having served our sentences and returned home, we face circumstances that often seem designed to prevent our full participation in our communities and country: stigma for having a criminal conviction, barriers to gaining meaningful employment and decent housing, barriers to constructive educational opportunities, lack of access to healthcare, denial of our voting rights.

This is a widespread problem. Consider this: there are nearly 2.4 million people incarcerated in prisons and jails in the U.S. today. Most people currently incarcerated are coming home -- according to the Department of Justice, over 700,000 people were released from incarceration in 2006 alone. Across the country, over five million people are under state supervision like parole or probation. There are millions of people who are currently and formerly incarcerated, and millions more who were never incarcerated but have a criminal conviction--all of whom live, every day, without our full civil and human rights.

What happens when people's civil and human rights are denied for too long? Movements for change spark and catch fire.

As we near the 46th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday March over the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, we're reminded of the Civil Rights Movement. For nearly 100 years after the end of chattel slavery, Black people were denied their human and civil rights, including the right to vote. People got tired and organized all over the country to win their rights. In Alabama, the movement was especially vibrant.

On Sunday, March 7, 1965, 600 Civil Rights activists attempted to march from Selma to Montgomery to protest the murder of a fellow activist and to demand their rights. As the marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were brutally attacked by the State Police. After a second march was turned back, a third march was organized shortly thereafter -- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and Congressman John Lewis and thousands of others crossed the bridge and walked to Montgomery. The march delivered a powerful blow against Jim Crow, and the Edmund Pettus Bridge became a symbol of a people's struggle for justice against oppression.

appellate courts have all but said is unconstitutional, I failed to entitle my objection correctly, and the appellate court ruled that prevented it from having jurisdiction to consider the appeal. One must wonder why a judge would still be making such dismissals, when case law has been stating the impropriety for about 20 years.

My lawsuit about "colored paper" and publication denials (#171533-C, in the 89th District Court of Texas, Wichita Falls, Texas), is nearing appeal, after the judge granted the officials' Motion to Dismiss on 4/21/2011.

I have not received any help, or offers of help, in getting documents copied, or typed, or citizen inquiries sent to Texas prison administrators, as a result of anyone reading PAN yet.

Umoya Kwazulu (Richard T. Ayers)
TDCJ-CID# 468366,
Beto Unit,
1391 F.M. 3328,
Tennessee Colony, Texas 75880

By All Means Necessary - May 2011

When I came to Federal prison I thought everything would be up to constitutional standards. I thought this because Federal judges had drastically reformed the Ohio state system. Imagine my surprise when I was told I would not even seal my own out-going mail! Something that would be a lawsuit in and of itself in state prison! I learned that while Federal judges jump right in state prisoncrats drawers for constitutional violations, they are akin to having the fox guard the henhouse in Federal prison.

Normally, the best way to fight oppression is with unity, unity against the oppressors using direct action. We did this in our state prisons, but we all knew each other. Sadly, it isn't happening in Federal prison, not with the majority, or even 1/3.

Many prisoners don't use the courts and wonder why some of us do. Well, our battle cry has been "By all Means necessary." I look at it like this, while very few of us win litigations, we cost our oppressors millions of dollars and staff to man their paperwork. So, in essence, we do win. When we cost them millions of dollars and manpower that can't be used to find further ways to oppress us, because they're tied up with litigation, we win!! Prisoncrats thrive on money, prisons are big business, when we get in their pockets we hurt them. That's a fact. Some of my brothers used to coordinate events "back in the day." Twenty of them would kick off their sinks and toilets; while 20 more would file lawsuits in Federal Court, all at once. There were only 4 Attorneys General that handled civil rights cases; they ran around like chickens with their heads cut off. And it cost \$10,000 to repair those sinks and toilets. We had a "million-dollar club;" figure it out.

I'm fighting Summary Judgment against U.S.P.-Terre Haute employees Ms. Wheeler, Ms. Kelsheimer, and Ms. Quiñones, for taking my Law Clerk job for assisting a brother in a medical lawsuit and an appeal of a "shot." They deny taking my job and put it on correctional counselor Larson, merely because she's the one who entered it into the computer; they play the game shrewd.

The U.S. Attorney always waits until I'm in the SHU to file Motions on me, knowing I have no access to a typewriter or Law Library, but as long as there's a breath in my body, and a way to write on paper to resist, I will resist until my dying day. I didn't enter into the struggle as a poop butt; I talk the talk and walk the walk!!

Solidarity, John Perotti

For those I left at U.S.P.-Coleman I, and U.S.P.-Victorville, I'm a firm believer that what comes around goes around. I hope your karma is good?

The Struggle of Sports in Prisons - May 2011

We as human beings feel the need for physical activities. Unfortunately, not every single one of us has the opportunity or ability to do what we love due to the circumstances.

Soccer is the world's #1 most popular sport. That means that most of countries around the world play soccer. Soccer is part of their lives, it's the biggest thing in the world's culture. This game brings all of us together in harmony, and is loved in any given situation.

Recently the situation in the United States with the attacks on undocumented people and the anti-immigrant movement have reduced the opportunities for us in prison to organize soccer tournaments. We have been discriminated against because the vast majority of the people who play soccer are immigrants.

There are people in prison that don't know how to play any other sport, only soccer. They also need some recreation. Every single sport is played here at SCI Greene except soccer. I arrived at SCI Greene in June of 2005. Ever since I have tried to do something about it. I have talked to lots of staff members in charge of activities and the only thing I got so far from them is false promises. Every time we get close to an agreement there's a new excuse. Well they have given lots of excuses.

We have two groups that organize sports here. One group is called A.C.E.. Prisoners are in charge of this group. I requested A.C.E. to get a soccer tournament done for us... They failed to do it because some of the staff members are opposed to that. I requested an explanation and was told by staff members that the other group that also organizes sports would do it. They are called the Activities Department. Staff members are in charge of this group. They also denied us the soccer tournament. I requested another explanation. The answer was that they were short on staff which is a big lie.

SOLIDARITY: WORKING ACROSS THE BARS

Korydallos Prison, Greece - May 2011

<http://www.occupiedlondon.org/blog/2011/05/14/587-protest-by-inmates-in-korydallos-prison/>

Prisoners of the 1st wing of Korydallos prison rebelled and they issued the following statement:

“We, the prisoners of the 1st wing of Korydallos prison, we rebel today Saturday 05/14/2011 and deny the midday check and lock of the cells. We may be imprisoned for various reasons and we do not all have the same views, but that does not mean that we do not still remain human beings. We care about all the things that happen outside the place where we are exiled. We are witnessing the decisions made by a justice-prostitute who has as pimps judges and prosecutors who give years of imprisonment like they are peanuts. It goes without saying that we stand next to those who struggle against the economic dictatorship and for a free and just world.

On May 10th a man in downtown Athens was murdered and once again some oppressed people instead of turning their knives and guns against the real thieves: the bankers, the big-bosses and shipowners [Greek ship-owners have the largest commercial fleet worldwide and they are very influential political class], they turn them towards other oppressed people. On the occasion the media propaganda gave a wake to racism and neo-Nazi parastatal groups -the best friends of cops-launched attacks on random immigrants, culminating in the murder of 20 year old in Kato Patissia.

The baton was taken by their fellows, the cops who attacked the demonstration against the economic measures that push everybody to the misery. Dozens of demonstrators were injured and one of them is in a coma, between life and death, struck by the dogs of the riot-police. These same dogs are the ones who had attacked the prisoners of the 3rd wing a few months ago along with hundreds of others in recent years in several prisons. Behind the high walls built to keep us away from our people, we let the desire for solidarity and struggle to overcome religious and national divisions and we will fight alongside those who outside prison struggle for freedom against the cops and their nails who beat and kill demonstrators and oppressed people.”

Prisoners of the 1st wing of Korydallos Prison

tion. Prof'l Real Estate Investors, Inc. v. Columbia Pictures Indust., Inc., 508 U.S. 49, 60-61 (1993). Such laws however, restrict IFP status because of both honest legal mistakes and intentional abuses. There's no "breathing space" for honest mistakes.

If your State has a law like 28 U.S.C. § 1915 (g), attack it! Use the above argument as a starting point. Such laws are manipulated by prison officials, segregation prevents you from working to save up for filing fees; thus, they essentially harm you by keeping you impoverished. Such laws are not allowed to be enacted if they could cause abuse in other ways. See: e.g., Blanck v. Ind. Dept. of Correction, 829 N.E. 2d 505, 511 (Ind. 2005) (The General Assembly may not create laws that abrogate a cause of action created by the constitution).

Against All Odds,
Eric D. Smith 112675,
W.V.C.F., P.O. Box 1111,
Carlisle, IN. 47838

Marcy, NY

I am in the (SHU) Special Housing Unit for 14 years; I stand against oppression. First, as an analytical thinker, I have the solitude to concentrate on what's more important instead of the normal politics of general population, Second, I can think of ways to further the struggle and communicate with you all from within this "ponder tank." Last, regardless of where I do my time, the clock still ticks, so 14 years is that much closer to my max date.

Me and one of my friends on the outside are drawing a petition up for Florida prisons because their 8th Amendment rights are being violated. They're not allowed books in confinement, only a Bible; how are they supposed to learn anything without any educational materials?

These Florida prisoners are given a half of a "Hotel" Bar of Soap to last a week, and a "Hotel" tube of toothpaste to last 30 days. They don't even get dental floss; they have to get a piece of fine string from their sheets or boxer shorts. They're not provided socks, and the socks that they enter confinement with are the only socks they have.

Any prisoner with a weaker mind would not take this punishment and these conditions well, and feel degraded, but, I often think about the conditions my Afrikan ancestors endured on those Slave Ships, and the savage, degrading and humiliating conditions of the life on these plantations under forced servitude and criminal bondage to sustain me.

Paul Smith, 07B2775,
(Shaylanna)
Marcy Corr. Fac.
P.O. Box 3600,
Marcy, NY. 13403-3600

Most of the prisoners felt kind of defeated. But I felt that it was not over yet. So I decided to do something that I hadn't done yet. I talked to a lot of people personally and I told them to write to the administration. Most of the "requests" from people were ignored. Now they have ignored the requests, I filed a complaint to the Activities Department based on discrimination. Now they have to give me a proper explanation.

I was told that they will consider a Soccer Fundamentals and that the problem was that they were short on staff members, but they will work on something like Soccer Fundamentals which is not a tournament, more like a training class where we can teach people how to play. Hopefully people here support us and will not allow this to fail. We will probably get a better outcome for all the prisoners here. It's been almost six years since we started pushing this issue and every time we get close to this goal there is always a new excuse. Hopefully this time it will be done. Anyone is welcome to support us in this struggle.

Cesar Polito CF7444
SCI Greene
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg, PA 15370



CAPTIVE

Todd (Hyung-Rae) Tarselli BY-8028
175 Progress Drive.
Waynesburg, PA 15370

Corruption in Harris County Court System Continues - May, 2011

The legal battle for my freedom with Harris County's 262nd Judicial District Court has heated up after denial of motions for appointment of a private investigator to question the jurors. On July 1, 1998, I, King Shakim was wrongfully convicted for 2nd Degree Robbery with serious constitutional violations being permitted on defense counsel by the court system.

The State of Texas filed an indictment and their witness coached to "stage" a show, was unsure what he told the police. This State witness (HPD/Houston Police Department) testified he was advised by another investigating (HPD) officer what to charge Shakim with because he would be the transport officer; this witness admitted he had no knowledge of the alleged offense at trial – only what the other (HPD) officer advised him with. In *Crawford v. Washington*, 541 U.S. 36; Ruled: ("out of court statements by witness that are testimonial are barred;...out of court statements to a police officer...violated the confrontation clause") The D.A. suppressing the investigating officer was a violation of *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83. The State presented false evidence by an (HPD) detective, even though the court sustained an objection of the "Narrative Form", the D.A. continued with the perjured testimony by its witness.

It was not only a major constitutional violation, but there was a conspiracy between the D.A., judge, defense counsel, and court reporter, to allow trial records to be tampered with. King Shakim spoke out in front of the jurors while the judge read off the sentencing (verdict) alleging Shakim was offered a plea of 2nd Degree Robbery but he rejected it; Shakim interjected that "nobody came to me with that offer" in front of the jurors.

After 13 years of unsuccessful attempts at obtaining the trial's "Statement of Facts," Shakim was blessed with a copy, and is sure without a doubt, they tampered with that portion of the record. There IS an Affidavit by his defense counsel that strongly alleges the court admonished Shakim on this plea offer; however Shakim has a certified letter from a court reporter that no admonishment appeared on the record.

Shakim needs assistance in obtaining a private investigator to interview those jurors to expose the corruption in the Harris County judicial system. Otherwise he will continue to be denied justice - these jurors' testimony is seriously needed here. Shakim welcomes any other assistance in obtaining affidavits from these jurors.

King Shakim Shakur,
(s/n) - Tracey W. Murphy,
TDCJ-CID# 835047,
John B. Connally Unit,
899 F.M. 632,
Kenedy, Texas 78119

Carlisle, IN - February, 2011

Dear PAN:

I got a State Law (Indiana Code 34-58-2-1) found unconstitutional. See: *Smith v. Ind. Dept. of Correction*, 883 N.E. 2d 802 (Ind. 2008). On July 1, 2009, the State enacted Indiana Code 34-10-1-3, which is like the Federal "Three Strikes" provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915. I challenged this statute as unconstitutional under the Indiana Constitution, but the court said the law did not violate the State Constitution. See: *Smith v. Wrigley*, Case No. 33A04-0912-CV-00727 (Ind. Ct. App. April 14, 2010), trans. denied August 27, 2010. I'm now challenging it, arguing it violates the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Anyone who is sanctioned to a law like I.C. 34-10-1-3, which denies *In Forma Pauperis* status and makes you pay a full filing fee up-front before the lawsuit can be filed, should know that such laws deny access to the courts; and they allow indigents to be abused and tortured by prison officials. Federal Courts have said that barring prisoners IFP status in future §1983 actions is impermissibly broad. *Abdul-Akbar v. Watson*, 901 F.2d 329, 332-33 (3d Cir. 1990); that such bans could deny right of access to the courts. *Matter of Davis*, 878 F.2d 211, 212-213 (7th Cir. 1989). And, that total preclusion of IFP status "unduly impairs Appellant's constitutional rights of access to the courts." *Carter v. U.S.*, 733 F. 2d 735 (10th Cir. 1984); *In Re Green*, 669 F.2d 779, 786 (D.C. Cir. 1981).

The right of access to the courts "is part of the right of petition protected by the First Amendment." *Cal. Motor Transp. Co. v. Trucking Unlimited*, 404 U.S. 508, 513 (1972). As such, it is "generally subject to the same constitutional analysis" as is the right to free speech. *Wayte v. U.S.*, 470 U.S. 598, 610 N-11 (1985). Advocacy in litigation is free speech. *Legal Servs. Corp. Velazquez*, 531 U.S. 533, 542-43 (2001). Because such laws address the conduct of litigation in court and not the internal operation of prisons, they are governed by the same First Amendment standards as other "free world" free speech claims. *Thornburgh v. Abbott*, 490 U.S. 401, 403 (1989), (distinguishing between regulations of material sent into prison and material sent out for purposes of First Amendment). This body of law requires that conditions on expression be narrowly tailored to the problem they are supposed to solve. *NAACP v. Button*, 371 U.S. 415, 438 (1963). Such laws are not narrowly tailored, and seem to conflict with the logic that meritorious cases should receive a full and fair hearing. See: e.g., *In Re Oliver*, 682 F.2d 443, 446 (3rd Cir. 1982); *Abdullah v. Gatto*, 773 F.2d 487 (2d Cir. 1985). Even injunctions ordered by the courts cannot completely foreclose access to the courts. See: e.g., *Riccard v. Prudential Ins. Co.*, 307 F.3d 1277, 1298 (11th Cir. 2002). Given the Federal Statute 28 U.S.C. § 1915 (g), a State Law mirroring the Federal Statute does just that. Afterall, 28 U.S.C. § 1915 (g) was only upheld as constitutional, because prisoners could still file IFP in State Courts. See: *Abdul-Akbar v. McKelvie*, 239 F.3d 307, 34-15 (3rd Cir. 2001). The First Amendment requires "breathing space" for margins of erroneous speech; *N.Y. Times Co. v. Sullivan*, 376 U.S. 254, 272 (1964). Only if litigation is both "objectively" and "subjectively" without basis, should conditions be imposed on litigation.

tion under Tex. Gov't. Code § 22.002, n. 20.

Judge Yelenosky allowed the (AG) Oral Argument, but cut Sims off when he voiced complaint over the “perjured” affidavit. Yelenosky and (AG) counsel hatched a “plan” to have Sims meet with the (AG) and the warden, to turn over the item at issue so Sims could mail it to a 3rd party on his visitor’s list. The (AG) was to file a draft Order to this effect. A few days later Sims received the Order, in which Yelenosky SAID “The Defendants’ Motion raises valid issues of Sovereign Immunity”; when in reality there’s no mention of “Sovereign Immunity” in the Motion.

Obviously Yelenosky was delusional and morally weak in the legal sense, ignorant of simple law, and disgusting to observe a dishonest judge found out. A small-minded man, and easy to see he was not one of us; his whole existence based on venality to burden us with the luck of the lawless decision-maker. Somewhat akin to rats scurrying vermin-like within our sense of right and wrong, gnawing away at our social contract causing the wound to fester; Yelenosky puts a reality to terms like “unethical” and “unprincipled” pulling things out of the air he needed for these dishonest state employees Smith and Turner to prevail through perjury.

Sims filed with the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, because the Canons of Ethics required Yelenosky to “know the law and abide by it”, over the “bad faith” ruling; but the rat-like Commissioners claimed the judge didn’t violate the Canons of Ethics.

Next Sims filed State Bar Grievance #A0011113554, because rules state filing and not withdrawing a “perjured” affidavit are prohibited. A short time later bureauc-rat(s) Ms. Stevens and Ms. Ray, Classification Attorney and Special Administrative Counsel respectively, said filing and failing to withdraw a “perjured” affidavit didn’t violate State Bar Rules; the state agencies all stepped forward to protect their own BIG Cheeses from scrutiny for their criminal actions.

Anyone reading this must conclude that state employees believe they’re above the law and will prevail no matter what crime is committed.

Studying Yelenosky’s ruling, one must doubt a degree from Harvard Law School really hangs over his fireplace. Thomas Jefferson once described Harvard as one of the “Seminaries of Despotism.” Who can doubt that?

Public officials like this are paid a “king’s ransom” in salary off the public dole and ignore the laws and oaths of office rather than abide them; it’s no wonder that “We the People” have no rule of law in Texas. It is important for us all to expose and rail against these Carpet-baggers with derision for the public office tyrants they are by maintaining the fight!

Comparing the public records on the “perjured” affidavit of Jennifer Smith, one easily concludes she’s a pathological liar. It can’t be denied, because she’s shown lying under oath during official court proceeding eagerly assisted by the (AG) counselors; this makes it appear that not being watched while committing criminal acts somehow excuses them from upholding the public trust. When next you see Gregg Abbott in the news media, remember he’s a “Liar & Cheat” because that’s what he’s doing in the Sims litigation.

Bill Sims

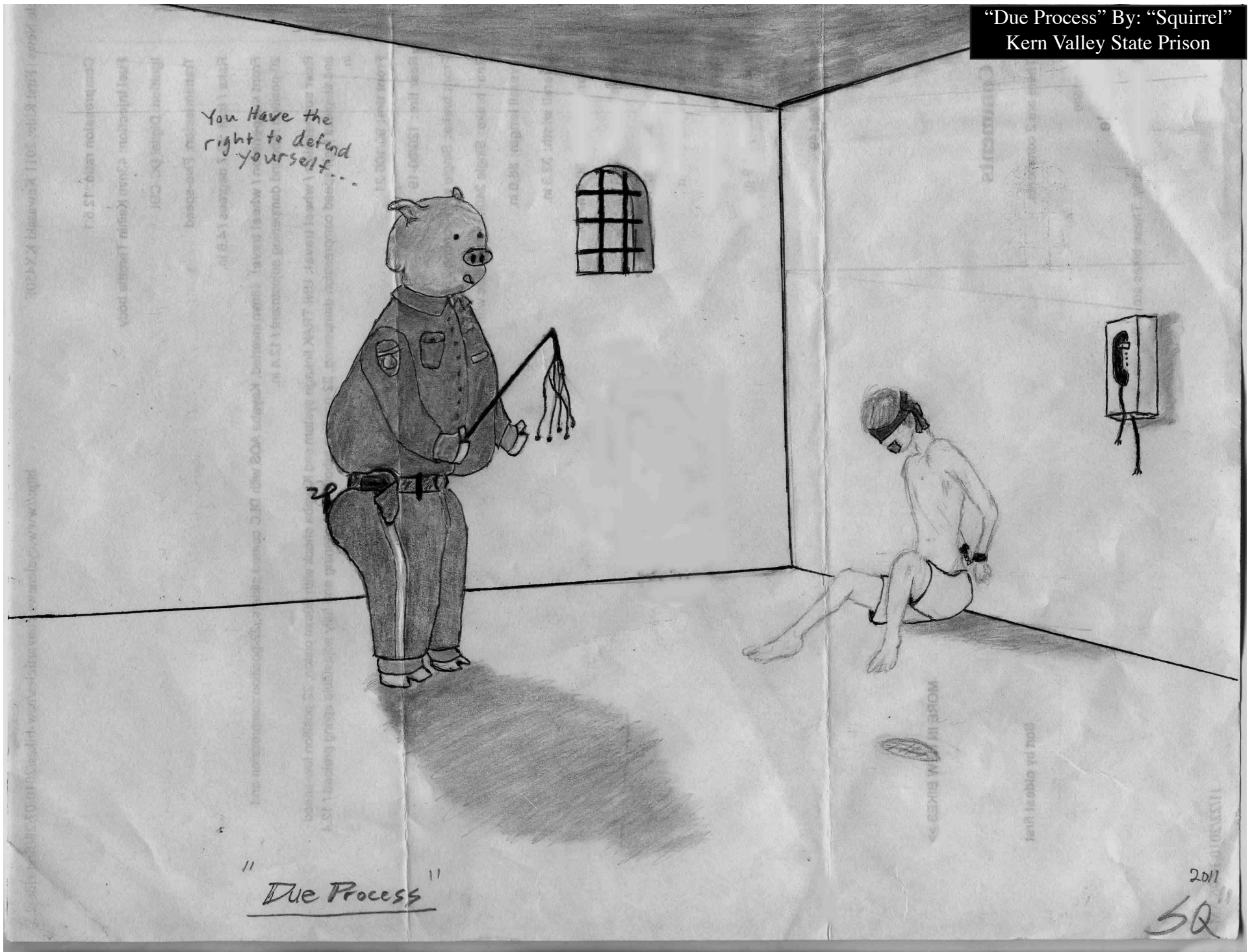
Constitutional Issues: the Struggle to Maintain Prisoners’ Rights in Texas - April, 2011

As many in the struggle try to maintain hard won constitutional rights for the prisoners in Texas on a pro se basis, Prison Legal News filed civil litigation in the federal district court in Southern Texas, 2:09-cv-00296. The case was styled Prison Legal News v. Brad Livingston, et al (the “et al” being mostly the agency’s Director’s Review Committee employee staff) for violating clearly established 1st and 14th Amendment Constitutional rights, by the employees’ intentional disregard of the laws. PLN’s litigation was filed on 11/04/09, just as the agency was abusing a prisoner named Billy Ross Sims, by falsely claiming that the agency’s mail rules (BP 03.91) prohibited benign content for which Sims had contracted for using a prisoner resource company out of Ohio, named U.S. Mint Green.

The Texas Constitution’s Article 1, §§ 16, 29, prohibit “anything that impairs the obligation of contracts” Robinson v. Crown Cork & Seal, 251 S.W. 3d 520 (T.A. 2006), and because (BP 03. 91) as written complies with U.S. Supreme Court laws controlling prisoner mail, Turner v. Safley, 107 S. Ct. 2254 (1987); Thornburgh v. Abbott, 109 S. Ct. 1874 (1989), and does not ban benign content as falsely claimed by the two prison employees, Jennifer Smith at DRC, and local mail supervisor, Celia Turner, Sims decided he stood a better chance enforcing the Constitution and State law in state district court, and so he began by filing an appeal, then a Step-2 Grievance. Once the Step-2 Grievance information got to Huntsville and Jennifer Smith’s office, it was entered in the record as denied because “envelope had no return address”, even though (BP 03.91) does not ban benign content, or for Smith’s reasons. Sims then filed a Petition for Writ of Mandamus, D-1-GN-10-000102, Bill Ross Sims vs. Jennifer Smith and Celia Turner, in the 201st District Court of Travis County, Texas. Service was made on both Defendants and they filed answers of “counter-claims” for attorney’s fees which waived any “Sovereign Immunity” claims under Texas law. Sims sought only Declaratory Relief; “qualified/official/sovereign immunities” do not apply as legal defense.

As is usual in prisoner suits, the (OAG) Office of the Attorney General Gregg Abbott’s state counsel defended the two prison employees. The (AG) assisted in support of the Defendant’s Motion for Summary Judgment along with a “perjured” affidavit; a criminal act. Sims filed a reply complaining that Jennifer Smith’s affidavit now claimed her denial was on grounds of “public safety”. This by a dishonest state employee, in order to prevail in court would lie under oath protected by the (AG) office.

A Hearing for Cross-Motions was scheduled for 12/15/2010, and the (AG) rounded up a judge named Stephen Yelenosky reputed to be a Harvard Law School grad to hear Motions. In Texas Motions must stand or fall on expressed issues presented in a Motion; (AG) Abbott’s Motion never mentions “Sovereign Immunity.” Instead, it raised [3] frivolous issues; “Qualified Immunity”; “Official Immunity”; that “The Court had no Jurisdiction.” Frivolous meaning, the [2] immunity defenses are inapplicable in suits seeking Declaratory Relief; and the court did have jurisdic-



"Due Process"

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